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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Condemns Israeli Violations of Airspace

NC1010155091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—An official source at the Arab League Secretariat has stated that the Israeli violation of the airspace of three Arab countries—Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia—will cause further tensions in the Middle East.

The source strongly condemned this act, which hinders the current efforts to establish peace in the region. He called on the UN Security Council, particularly its permanent members, to deter Israel from repeating such hostile acts and compel it to respect the UN Charter and international resolutions pertaining to peace in the Middle East.

Arab League Chief Discusses Kuwaiti POW Issue

NC0810103191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0742 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said the Arab League is determined to resolve the issue of Kuwaiti POW's in Iraq.

In a statement to the newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT, published today, the secretary general described the results achieved by his assistant 'Abdallah Adam, who is visiting Baghdad in connection with this issues, as positive. He added that he received a telegram from Adam informing him of the progress made in this regard.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reported that his assistant visited the POW's in Iraq and held face-to-face meetings with some of the people whose names are included on the Kuwaiti POW list. He noted hat the Iraqi authorities have begun to submit lists of their own.

GCC Leader Interviewed on Regional Issues

PM0910100191 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Oct 91 p 5

[Interview with Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Dirgham] What is the real dimension of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states' relationship with Iran with regard to future relations and security arrangements?

[Bisharah] There are five principles pursued by the GCC states in the stage after the liberation of Kuwait: first, the intrinsic building of the GCC states; second, full implementation of the Security Council resolutions concerning the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait and a continuing political, economic, and international siege of the Iraqi regime; third, the Arab dimension represented by the "Damascus declaration"; fourth, regional understanding with Iran; and fifth, the international dimension and the link between Gulf security, Arab security, and world security. The question concerns the fourth point, namely regional understanding. We agreed on points mentioned in the final statement of the New York meeting between the GCC states and Iran. These points will be fundamental to any future understanding. We will hold a meeting next year to organize relations so they will not be subject to moods and changes, but rather be based on principles for the sake of permanent aims.

[Dirgham] How will you reconcile the Damascus declaration and the relationship with Iran, in the knowledge that Egypt and Iran are not on good terms with regard to the issue of security arrangements?

[Bisharah] Relations with Iran concern the sea, Gulf waters, international waterways, and freedom of navigation. We are working with Iran to realize common aims from a common viewpoint, since in the past we never agreed on common aims or a common viewpoint. So the Gulf region will have a calm future if we reach that common viewpoint and common aims. As for Egypt, we have a common viewpoint and common aims embodied in the Damascus declaration and Egyptian-Syrian participation in Kuwait's security.

[Dirgham] Do you mean in Gulf security?

[Bisharah] I mean the GCC states' security, the GCC states' security, and this has nothing to do with the Iranian-Gulf dialogue.

[Dirgham] What is Iran's position on the foreign presence in the Gulf, and is it exerting pressure on the GCC states in this regard?

[Bisharah] We should not forget that world security is linked to the GCC states' security. The fifth of the principles I mentioned concerns the Gulf-Arab world linkage at the security level. I understand the Iranian sensitivity—the Iranian revolution's sensitivity—about the so-called security arrangements, which some circles in Iran believe pose a threat to its security. We emphasize that these arrangements are ordinary arrangements prompted by the tragedy which occurred in the Gulf and affected the Kuwaiti people in particular. These arrangements reflect world interest in Gulf security, and the GCC states' stability is in Iran's interests.

[Dirgham] Did Iran protest the conclusion of the security defense agreement between Kuwait and the United States?

[Bisharah] What concerns Iran is knowing Kuwait's view, which Kuwait explained clearly to the Iranian Government.

[Dirgham] Did Iran agree to it?

[Bisharah] I do not believe there is an obstacle. And this question will not represent an obstacle to geographical

understanding based on principles. What is important is adherence by the GCC states and Iran to the principles which we will agree to with regard to the organization of relations.

[Excerpts] [Dirgham] Do you believe that the GCC states together will conclude an agreement with the United States similar to that concluded by Kuwait?

[Bisharah] There is a draft framework for the organization of relations. It has been submitted to some states, but not all of them. Some states—traditionally and historically—have something like these arrangements. I believe that the Gulf states are very anxious to show the linkage between the region's security, Arab security, and world security, and to insist on this linkage. But if any GCC state wants to conclude a separate agreement, that falls within the bilateral framework and the GCC has nothing to do with it.

[Dirgham] Do the Gulf states agree with President George Bush's position on continuing the embargo against Iran as long as President Saddam Husayn is in power?

[Bisharah] The Gulf position can be summed up in two points: First, there must be no dealing with the present regime. Second, Iraq must comply with all the principles stipulated in the Security Council resolutions.

The Iraqi regime's presence disrupts regional understanding, and its disappearance would bring comfort. But how can it really disappear? That is the Iraqi people's business. Also, the reasons for the embargo will disappear when Baghdad complies with the international resolutions.

[Dirgham] Can the Gulf position be said to be different from the U.S. position?

[Bisharah] The U.S. opinion represents the U.S. view. As for the Gulf states' view, it is: total compliance with the principles stipulated in the Security Council resolutions.

[Dirgham] And not toppling the Saddam Husayn regime?

[Bisharah] That point is not raised.

[Dirgham] There is said to be a U.S.-Gulf understanding over Saddam's remaining in power so that his absence will not create a vacuum or lead to the "Lebanonization" of Iraq. Is that true?

[Bisharah] President Saddam's remaining in power is for the Iraqi people to decide. Our policy is that Iraq must implement all the clauses of the resolutions. The second point is that the movie thriller about Gulf-U.S. understanding over Saddam's remaining in power does not exist. The Gulf states are demanding Iraq's implementation of the resolutions issued against it, and we have nothing to do with who should or should not remain (in power). [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Do you intend to permanently separate the GCC states and states like Jordan and Yemen?

[Bisharah] No. We say first: The aggression must be condemned. It is not a matter that has been finished. That is untrue; it is not finished. There is great bitterness, and I openly say that the aggression against Kuwait detonated sedition that had been asleep. What happened was that some people rejoiced at the Kuwaitis' calamity. That is something we did not expect and cannot accept. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Egypt proposed listing the boycott on Israel if it stops building settlements. What will your position be if regional talks begin within the international peace conference framework and Israel does not stop building settlements?

[Bisharah] We announced that we are prepared to lift the boycott in the GCC states in return for a halt to the building of settlements. I believe that the boycott is actually something that concerns morale, is symbolic, and expresses anger. True, it (the boycott) is the result of the occupation of Palestinian territories and dispossession of their people. This is true. But the speed at which the settlements are built and the effect of this on the future must be tackled. And if lifting the boycott is one way of tackling that, so be it. I believe that it is right to lift the boycott if Israel stops building settlements.

[Dirgham] And if Israel insists on building settlements?

[Bisharah] The boycott will continue and no peace will be achieved. I do not know how peace can be achieved under a huge program for building settlements.

[Dirgham] Do you mean that the conference as a whole will not be realized?

[Bisharah] The conference will be convened.

[Dirgham] Even if Israel continues to build settlements?

[Bisharah] I am not sending out invitations for the conference. The feeling now is that it will be convened. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Ozal Addresses ICO Opening Ceremony in Istanbul

TA0810142491 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The seventh meeting of the standing Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation of the Islamic Conference [COMSEC] and the first meeting of the public works ministerial committee of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] began work today in Istanbul.

Addressing the joint inauguration ceremony, COMSEC chairman President Turgut Ozal declared that economic cooperation is the most effective way to preserve peace

and stability in the Islamic community. He added that new fields of cooperation must be sought among Islamic countries, taking into consideration recent changes in the world.

Recalling that COMSEC's seventh meeting is taking place in the wake of a tragic period in the Middle East, Ozal said that instability continues in the region. He pointed out that the material and spiritual damage caused by the Gulf war must be eliminated and the wounds must be healed, adding that COMSEC can play a crucial role in achieving this goal.

Ozal stated that should the peace process be realized in the Middle East, new horizons will be opened up for regional cooperation. He remarked that national and religious awakenings recently occurring in the Balkans, the Caucuses, and Central Asia must be closely followed by the ICO. He added that opportunities have emerged in these regions for the organization to establish new fields of cooperation. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Leaders Depart for U.S. Talks With Baker

NC0910144691 Paris AFP in English 1407 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Jerusalem, Oct 9 (AFP)—Three leading Palestinian figures from the Israeli-occupied territories left for Washington Wednesday in a bid to overcome differences with Secretary of State James Baker on a Middle East peace conference. Palestinian sources said Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center in East Jerusalem, Hanan 'Ashrawi, a professor, and Zakariya al-Agha, head of the Gaza Strip Medical Association, would meet Thursday with Baker.

Baker will this weekend begin his eighth mission to the Middle East since March. Palestinian leaders are unhappy that Baker's vision of the conference does not allow for discussions on the right of the Palestinians to self-determination in territories currently occupied by Israel.

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi and Agha have met frequently with Baker and are his principal links to Palestinian thinking on the U.S. peace conference initiative. Al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi, listed as residents of Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, were questioned by police for an hour on Tuesday in connection with reports that they had violated Israeli law by attending a session of the Palestine Liberation Organization's parliament-in-exile in Algiers late last month. Israeli law prohibits citizens or residents from having any contacts with the PLO, which is regarded as a terrorist group. U.S. State Department officials last week said they had asked Israel not to prosecute al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi, a move they warned could complicate Baker's efforts.

PLO's Qaddumi Voices Hope for Peace Conference

AU0910212091 Paris AFP in English 2046 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Paris, Oct 9 (AFP)—The head of the PLO's foreign affairs department Faruq Qaddumi said Wednesday [9 October] that he was hopeful that a Middle East peace conference would be held at the end of the month.

"I hope that all sides will apply themselves to facilitating a meeting of the peace conference," Qaddumi said in the French capital after a meeting with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Qaddumi said France, through its membership of the European Community and as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, could play an active role in advancing the peace process "in coordination with the United States."

The peace conference, which has been sponsored by the United States, is expected to bring together Israel and the Arab states as well as Palestinian representatives.

But Israel categorically rejects any involvement by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which it regards as a terrorist organization, at the conference.

Qaddumi said however that the PLO, as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, had an "absolute right" to designate the Palestinian delegates.

AL-QUDS on Peace Efforts, Arab Coordination

TA0810165891 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Oct 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The Peace Efforts and the Approaching Launch!"]

[Text] A meeting is expected sometime after tomorrow in Washington between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Faysal al-Husayni, and Hanan 'Ashrawi to discuss the final draft of the U.S. memorandum of assurances to the Palestinians. There is no doubt that the differences between the two sides are still centered in the U.S. Administration's stance toward the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the question of Palestinian representation, the issue of Jerusalem and its representation, and settlements.

Baker's upcoming trip to the region, expected next week, should produce major developments, the most important of which will be the issuance of invitations to the peace conference. Considering the fast pace of events, as well as the U.S., Arab, and Israeli positions, the guarantees which the Palestinian side is trying to obtain from Washington constitute the basis for dealing with the Palestinians on all levels.

In its recent session, the Palestine National Council [PNC] decided to deal positively with proposals and initiatives that relied on international legitimacy,

including the call by Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev to convene a special conference to settle the Middle East conflict.

According to the PNC resolutions, the peace process must rely on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the commitment to implement them to ensure a comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian lands, a halt to settlement activity, consideration of Jerusalem as an integral part of the occupied territories, the right of the PLO to form its Palestinian delegation on equal footing with the other parties in a manner that affirms its authority, the need for linkage between the stages of a solution, and the exclusion of separate bilateral solutions.

The region is nearing the decision point. Apparently the peace conference will be convened with the participation of all parties involved in the conflict. Hence, the Soviet Union, the EC states, and other countries that have established their positions on the basis of international legitimacy should exert every effort to lay the foundations of a comprehensive, lasting, and balanced peace.

The coordination of Arab positions in these crucial days is the only means for ensuring Arab interests and aspirations. Agreeing on a joint strategy of action would serve as a launching pad toward comprehensive Arab-international coordination to consolidate the principles of international legitimacy in every step of the peace process.

We hope that Arab leaders will rise to the level of historic responsibility demanded by the times, because keeping the Arab nation on the fringes of international relations, without having the ability to influence events, will adversely affect the position and status of all Arab parties, without exception.

OPEC Affairs

UAE Calls for Oil Cooperation

BK0810155591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 8 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Tuesday called for wide ranging cooperation in developing and exploiting oil resources between oil-rich Gulf states and emerging economies of Southeast Asia.

Referring to the emergence of regional economic groupings in North America and Western Europe, UAE Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf said the countries in the Gulf and Southeast Asia should enter into a cooperating network themselves.

"The importance of long-term multilateral commitments between the high energy consuming and developing economies of Southeast Asia and the oil exporting countries of the Gulf cannot be understated," Yousef told the Second Jakarta International Energy Conference.

"To the Gulf countries, Southeast Asia can provide a stable and rapidly growing customer base, and the rationale for the major upstream investments that are required to meet the demands of the 21st century," he said. The minister said the cooperation should go beyond mere crude supply contract to encompass joint capital commitment in Southeast Asia's refinery, transportation and distribution sectors.

Egypt

Libya's al-Qadhdhafi Arrives on Visit

NC0910152991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1458 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon. He was received by President Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials. The two leaders embraced and President Mubarak welcomed Egypt's great visitor and wished him a happy stay in Cairo. President Mubarak then accompanied his brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi to al-Qubbah Palace, where he will be staying during his visit.

Mubarak Meets al-Qadhdhafi

NC0910154291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Libyan Revolution leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the beginning of a two-day private visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak received him at the airport and escorted him to al-Qubbah Palace.

Following the reception ceremonies, President Mubarak stated that Egypt does not want to engage in a war of statements, as long as we are talking about a peace conference. The president was answering a reporter's question on Shamir's recent statements and whether they are obstructive to peace.

The president said: The Israeli prime minister seems as though he is putting forward preconditions, while we all agree on the need to avoid preconditions. We have to remain silent until the conference is held and we all put our cards on the table to discuss them; that is, if peace is what we want.

The president added: We are seeking peace. Therefore, we advise all parties concerned to avoid getting involved in a war of words so that the conference may be held. Peace represents a golden opportunity. If we and Israel miss this opportunity, the Palestinians as well will miss it.

Responding to a question on the president's agreement to attend a one-session rather than multi-session peace conference, the president said: This will be determined by an agreement among the parties concerned. But, he retorted, this is not the main issue. What really counts is for us to sit to the table and find a solution.

The president said: We want to be realistic. We want to sit down and discuss the true and major issue. He added: I do not pay much attention to formalities, but rather to the essentials.

Responding to a question on reports that Bush and Gorbachev would attend the opening session [of the peace conference], and whether this means that all presidents will attend, the president said: I have no idea about this matter. I only read about it today in the papers. But, he said, the U.S. secretary of state will arrive [in Cairo] on Sunday morning and I will meet with him on Monday morning. I cannot talk about anything until he arrives. On the date and venue of the conference, the president said they have not yet been determined. He hoped, however, that the conference will be held this month.

Syria's al-Asad To Visit 'Early Next Week'

NC0910202791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will arrive in Cairo early next week to hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on peace efforts, the situation in the Middle East, and the peace conference expected to be held in late October. In its issue tomorrow, Thursday, the paper writes that the talks between the two leaders also will touch on bilateral coordination and preparations for the meeting between the five states which will take part in the peace conference; namely Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine.

Musa Announces Intention To Visit Israel

TA0910184591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa intends to visit Israel. He informed Deputy Minister Yig'al Bibi about his intentions during a meeting between the two this evening in Cairo. Musa did not say when the visit would be. On another matter, Musa said now is not the right time to repeal the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. He said, however, that if Israel was willing to freeze settlement in the territories, this would probably lead to progress on the repeal.

U.S. 'Stockpile' Request Reportedly Rejected

NC0910153791 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 7 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Political sources have told MISR AL-FATAH that the Egyptian Government conveyed to the U.S. Administration its rejection in principle of the U.S. request to stockpile U.S. weapons in Egyptian territories.

The sources said that this issue topped the agenda of the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz during the Egyptian president's recent visit to Saudi Arabia. The sources added that the U.S. Administration is seeking to create large-scale military cooperation between Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait by stockpiling weapons in these countries.

U.S. Said Planning To Spark Saudi-Yemeni War

NC0910150791 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 7 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources have told MISR AL-FATAH that a team of U.S. political and military experts has worked out a plan which seeks to spark an armed conflict between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

In accordance with this plan, the United States has supplied Riyadh and Sanaa with misleading and inconsistent information involving claims about border violations on both sides.

The sources have pointed out that the U.S. Administration is inciting military skirmishes between the two sides in order to spark a war in which U.S. troops would side with the Saudis against Yemen.

The ultimate goal of such a war is to strike at Yemeni unity and overthrow President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's regime, due to his forthright stand during the Gulf crisis. The United States is also seeking to control Yemeni oil reserves, which some reports have indicated might exceed those in other Gulf countries.

The sources also noted that this issue was at the top of President Mubarak's agenda during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, when Mubarak emphasized the need to contain the differences between Saudi Arabia and Yemen before they explode.

The president intervened following a telephone conversation with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih two days prior to Mubarak's visit to Saudi Arabia. During the conversation, it was agreed that Mubarak would embark on a mediation bid to contain the tension between the two countries.

Mubarak's current mediation effort seeks to arrange urgent meetings between Saudi and Yemeni officials as a prologue for a summit meeting which would bring the Saudi king and the Yemeni president together to put an end to the tension between the two countries and discuss the issue of demarcating the borders.

Prime Minister Sidqi To Visit Kuwait 23 Oct

NC0910211591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2046 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that he will visit Kuwait to attend the Egyptian products exhibition there on 23 October. In statements he made this evening, Dr. Sidqi said that during this visit he will meet with a number of Kuwaiti officials to discuss ways to strengthen and develop the relations of cooperation in various fields.

Sudan

Officials Deny Famine-Related Death Reports

EA0910153991 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Oct (SUNA)—The Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi has dismissed as "ill-intentioned and baseless" the allegations of the ASSOCIATED PRESS agency (AP) that thousands of people have died of starvation during the past months due to drought in western Sudan and the civil war in the south. The embassy, in a statement published yesterday by the Kenyan daily the "Nation", denied the existence of famine-related deaths among citizens in Sudan. It affirmed that the Sudanese Government had adopted swift and effective policies which helped avoiding the consequences of drought, desertification and the civil war, and cultivated, for the first time, 1.1 million feddans with wheat. The embassy also referred to the assistance rendered by the donor countries and organisations which effectively helped in containing the situation.

Dollar Exchange Rate Increases to 15 Pounds

EA0710173091 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Oct (SUNA)—The dollar exchange rate has been amended from 4.5 to 15 pounds as official price and from 12.3 pounds to 30 pounds as encouraging price in implementation of the directives of the advisory council of the economic committee and the decisions of the Council of Ministers taken yesterday. The remarks took place during an (?enlightenment) meeting held here by members of the Revolution Command Council and head of the economic committee Colonel Salah Karrar.

Subsidy would be lifted from sugar and petroleum materials. Accordingly the price of one pound of sugar would be seven Sudanese pounds instead of four S. [Sudanese] pounds. A gallon of benzin [as received] increased from 15 to 20 pounds, Col. Karrar added.

The government employees would be granted a 300 pounds monthly support in order to face the said price increase in sugar and petroleum, Col. Karrar said. Karrar urged the private sector to grant a similar support to the concerned authorities would restudy the being costs every six months. [sentence as received]

Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Abd al-Rahim Hamdi announced that 50 per cent of export revenues would be allocated for exporters as regard to basic commodities and 60 per cent concerning the ancillary ones. Ten per cent would be allocated for medicine, 10 per cent for banks to meet their commitments, while the remaining 20 to 30 per cent would be sent to the Bank of Sudan, Dr. Hamdi said.

He declared stimulating policy as regard to export such as price liberalization, commodities will be freely transported nationwide as monopoly on sesame crop domestic transport and export would be lifted, adding that the procedure would double the factories working capacity. [sentence as received].

The official dollar rate, he said, would be in effect as of yesterday September [as received] 6th regarding the government revenues, purchases, paying of loans and (?grants), revenues of embassies and foreign bodies, besides the customs revenues of the private sector.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Meets With Algeria's Ghozali

LD0910211791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held talks this morning at Carthage Palace with Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the Algerian prime minister and special envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid to his excellency the president. After the meeting, Mr. Ghozali expressed his great pleasure at meeting the head of the state, adding that his visit comes within the framework of continuous contacts and evaluation of bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries in all fields, as well as in the framework of attempts aimed at developing maghreban action. The Algerian prime minister said that he had delivered a private message from President Chadli Bendjedid to his brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and that he had reviewed with the president of the republic all that concerns the development of the fraternal relations between the two neighboring countries and strengthening them, pointing out that these relations at this historical phase, go toward the integration of Maghreban countries in one group. He mentioned that the talks dealt with development issues and issues relating to coopeation across boundaries, and issues that will be the object of concern for the Algerian-Tunisian followup committee.

Sid Ahmed Ghozali left Tunis this afternoon, after a short visit that lasted several hours. Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, who welcomed him this morning at the airport and attended his meeting with president, saw him off at Tunis-Carthage International Airport. [Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 9 October broadcasts a related report on Ghozali's visit to Tunisia that includes the following recording of remarks by Ghozali at the end of his visit: "I paid a visit to my brother President Ben Ali. During this meeting we reviewed all issues of interest to both countries regarding the development and consolidation of fraternal relations between the two neighboring countries. (?We are) in an historic phase that aims at integrating the Maghreb countries in a unified group. We dealt with the development issues and questions relating to cooperation across the Algerian-Tunisian followup committee. I am very happy with this opportunity I had in meeting with my brothers the president and the prime minister Karoui and members of the political leadership of fraternal Tunisia."]

Spokesman Comments on Ben Ali, Menem Meeting

LD1010074991 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Presidents Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Carlos Menem this evening held another round of talks at Carthage Palace on the conclusion of the Argentinian president's visit to Tunisia. The official spokesman for the Presidency said that at this third round of talks a review was made of what the two countries have agreed on to give bilateral cooperation a new push in many developmental and cultural fields so as to consolidate the bonds of friendship between the two countries and peoples. The two presidents dealt also with other issues at the international level, including disarmament, in light of the deep changes taking place in the international arena. They discussed the situation in Africa and the positive developments in Africa along the path of liquidating the remnents of racial discrimination.

The official spokesman pointed out that President Ben Ali reaffirmed to his guest Tunisia's satisfaction with the contents of the recent declaration by Argentina, Brazil, and Chile banning the use of chemical and biological weapons, which will contribute to the consolidation of peace and security in that region. His excellency the president renewed Tunisia's satisfaction with the decision of U.S. President Bush to reduce nuclear weapons and with President Gorbachev's response to that. President Ben Ali pointed out, on the other hand, that despite these positive initiatives, differences are still very wide between the funds allocated for armament and the funds earmarked for development. He told his guest he hopes that more international interest will be concentrated on questions of development and environmental protection, as these constitute the foundation for the realization of prosperity and the prevalance of security and stability in the world.

The official spokesman reaffirmed the identity of the views of both presidents and their resolve to work individually for the realization of these noble human objectives.

The two presidents reviewed the situation in Africa and the positive steps that have been made along the path of removing racial discrimination and putting an end to this abhored policy. The official spokesman said that President Ben Ali reaffirmed to his guest that Tunisia looks forward to the continuation of this tide in southern Africa in a manner that will guarantee the establishment of a democratic system in which all the people are equal and justice and freedom prevail. His excellency the president reaffirmed that Tunisia aspires for more strengthening of solidarity among all countries in a manner that will enable it to win the development race and contribute toward the establishment of a new international order that depends on justice and solidarity

ur der the umbrella of mutual respect, security, stability, and peace. The official spokesman said that President Carlos Menem extended an invitation to His Excellency President Zine El Abindine Ben Ali to visit Argentina, and that his excellency the president accepted this invitation. The date will be determined in due course.

*Officials Discuss Ennahdah With Algerian Envoy

92P40015A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Oct 91 p 1

[Article by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi]

[Text] Tunis—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources that a senior Algerian Interior Ministry official visited Tunisia at the beginning of the week to meet with a number of officials from the Interior Ministry in Tunis.

These sources state that the visit, which was not announced in either Tunisia or Algeria, focused on the issue of the presence [in Algeria] of leadership elements from the prohibited Ennahdah Movement and their activities initiated from Algerian territory against Tunisia and against President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The Algerian official's visit comes in the negative atmosphere which has begun to settle over relations between the two neighboring countries following statements by a number of Tunisian officials, especially Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel, who revealed last Saturday the Ennahdah Movement's use of Algerian territory as a "base" for launching their operations.

According to political observers, it appears that Tunisia—motivated by its desire for good, neighborly relations with Algeria and by its desire for the success of the effort that is being made to build the UMA [Arab Maghreb Union]—may have asked Libya and Mauritania to use their good offices with Algeria to put an end to the Ennahdah Movement's activities and presence in Algeria. President Ben Ali sent two emissaries to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Mauritanian President Mu'awiya Ould Taya.

Regional Press on Baker's Upcoming Tour

JN0910165991 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Manama, Oct 9 (GNA)—A UAE newspaper commented editorially today on the last mission of U.S. secretary of state in the region before the convention of the peace conference and said in part:

"U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is due in the Middle East on Sunday for the eighth time to continue his peace marathon which has broken all records for shuttle diplomacy in this region.

"The Baker mission has been making headway because President George Bush has wisely kept up the pressure on the intransigent Yitzhaq Shamir government to move to the negotiating table, while at the same time making it clear that the Israelis must exchange land for peace.

"It is in response to Bush's fairminded approach that the Arab leaders have already gone the extra mile for peace.

"If it were not for the willingness of the frontline Arab nations to match the plan Baker brought along with concessions on their own part, the international peace conference would not have been as close to realisation as it is now.

"It cannot be that Baker is undertaking another exhausting shuttle to visit Egypt, Jordan and Syria as well as talk to Israelis and the Palestinians—without any prospect of settling this time all remaining obstacles standing in the way of a peace conference.

"There isn't going to be time for a ninth trip if the conference is to be held on October 30 and 31.

"When Baker arrives in the region on Sunday, he will find that the Arabs have been busy keeping their side of the bargain by looking carefully into the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which the U.S. has urged as a way out of the impasse created by the Israelis over the question of the Palestinian team.

"But Baker may find the Israelis ready to dig in and refuse to budge, if there is the slightest sign of any slackening of pressure by the U.S."

Qatari daily newspaper 'AL-'ARAB' in its editorial today contended that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's forthcoming Middle East tour assumes special importance as it would materialise in the wake of a series of marked developments concerning the region's conflict, including Washington's refusal to provide Israel with credit guarantees and the Palestine National Council's positive attitude vis a vis the peace efforts.

"Baker's eighth tour will focus on putting the final touches as regards the peace conference before the convening of which Israel is keen on creating unjustified impediments on the question of Jewish settlements and credits as it had done on the issue of Palestinian representation," the paper said in an editorial.

But the paper stressed that the key to all the issues remain in the hands of Washington "not only because the United States is the unchallenged super power but also because Washington is the one which announced that it is working for the establishment of a new world order based on security, stability and peace."

Concluding, the paper stressed that success or failure in resolving the region's problems would mean a lot to the American Administration "which we do not believe would sacrifice all that it has already done because its international standing gives it responsibilities that are now greater than ever before." [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Council of Ministers Meets on Prisoners, Oil

LD0910231191 London KUNA in Arabic 1345 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 9 Oct (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers met here today under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, which focused on, inter alia, security matters, the release of prisoners and detainees by the Iraqi authorities, and the new oil developments in the country.

Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, told journalists after the meeting that the Council of Ministers took note of the message sent by His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, to Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu concerning the good bilateral relations between the two friendly states and the cooperation between them in the various fields. [passage omitted]

Minister of State Al-'Uthman said the Council examined the subject of prisoners and detainees in the hands of the Iraqi authorities and reviewed the intense efforts being made at all levels for the release of those innocents and their return to their families as soon as possible. The Council also expressed its appreciation for efforts by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat Abd al-Majid to ensure the safety of the prisoners and detainees, their rapid return, and an end to this human tragedy. The minister of state for cabinet affairs indicated that "to support the foundations of security and stability at this very critical phase which Kuwait is going through, the Council discussed the security situation and, in this respect, reviewed the plan of action drawn up by the Interior Ministry and the measures included in the plan regarding ways to bolster and develop action in the services affiliated to the Ministry and the requirements needed to implement this plan." The Council also "welcomed this plan and entrusted the Interior Ministry with taking the practical measures to carry out the plan." [passage omitted]

The Council reviewed the latest efforts to bring under control those oil wells that are on fire, in light of a briefing presented by the oil minister. As of 8 October, 584 wells have been brought under control. This reflects the successful efforts by the teams helping to bring under control and to extinguish the wells that are on fire in record time. The Council then discussed a number of other issues and made the appropriate decisions on them.

Opposition Groups Facing 'Identity Crisis'

NC0810081391 Paris AFP in English 0710 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait City, Oct 8 (AFP) - The once volatile Kuwaiti opposition has run out of steam and is groping for a new direction eight months after emerging from Iraqi occupation. Opponents of Kuwait's ruling al-Sabah family, many of whom remained behind and lived under the Iraqi yoke, were highly visible just after the liberation of the emirate by a U.S.-led military coalition in February. But they have lately gone silent, even if their dissatisfaction—expressed privately in traditional male gatherings known as diwaniyas—is as acute as ever.

"The opposition has not disappeared," insisted Mubarak al-'Adwani, a journalist on the newspaper AL-QABAS. "But the emphasis is now on organizing from within." Committed critics accuse the government of being indecisive and confused, and charge that it is trying to "buy off" Kuwaitis with elaborate promises.

"The government is completely incompetent to run the country until 1992," said Ahmad al-Sa'dun, former speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament, suspended in 1986 by the emir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Al-Sa'dun is also head of the Constitutional Movement group, an opposition force made up of 30 MPs who had served in the suspended parliament.

The emir has promised a new round of legislative elections in October 1992, but opposition groups—both secular and Islamic fundamentalist—are demanding that the vote be held well before then. According to al-Sa'dun, the groups are "very soon" to convene "a large popular conference" to chart a future course of action.

The opposition in Kuwait is dominated by members of influential merchant families who have long been rivals to the al-Sabahs. The current strength of its following is difficult to judge. Prior to the August 2 1990 invasion it staged major public rallies to protest the emir's plan to establish a national consultative council rather than an authentic parliament.

Political parties are banned, the press is censured, and, according to 'Abdallah Nibari of the centrist opposition movement Democratic Forum, "organized action is not a Kuwaiti tradition." "The Kuwaiti way of opposition is mostly talking," he acknowledged. But the opposition found nothing to say about a defense accord the government signed last month with the United States, a move well-received by the public but rejected by some opponents here.

For Professor Shamlan al-'Issa, the opposition is undergoing nothing less than an identity crisis, notably as it has "always followed other Arab movements, which took different positions on Iraq". In addition, he said, splits have emerged—notably within the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood—between opposition leaders who fled during the Iraqi invasion and young militants who stayed behind and now hold more radical positions.

The opposition has to date rejected any modification in voting legislation that would extend suffrage to women and naturalized Kuwaitis, fearing that such groups might throw their weight behind the ruling family. At present only 65,000 Kuwaitis—from an indigenous population of 650,000—have the right to vote.

Progress in Capping Oil Well Fires Reported

LD1010111391 London KUNA in Arabic 0905 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 Oct (KUNA)—Su'ud al-Nashmi, director general of drilling and capping operations at the Kuwait Oil Company, says that there are only 134 wells on fire in Kuwait, spread between the al-Burqan field and the northern field.

In an interview with the SAWT AL-KUWAIT newspaper, published today, he says that the number of wells extinguished and brought under full control the day before yesterday was nine, of which six were in the al-Burqan field and three in the al-Rawdhatayn field. The total number of wells capped is 584.

He says that there are wells that were not blown up despite mines planted by the Iraqi regime there. After liberation, the U.S. Army defused these explosives. He points out that the current production comes from these wells, located at the al-Mawqa' and al-Burqan fields.

Concerning the possibility of capping all the wells by the middle of next month, al-Nashmi said that that it is difficult to set a date for capping, because the matter depends on weather factors, which are difficult to predict. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Receives Pakistani President

LD1010084891 Riyadh SPA in English 1307 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Jeddah, Oct 9 (SPA)—Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, received this afternoon at the royal court in al-Salam Palace the visiting Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The Pakistani side at the meeting included Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Chaudhary Nasir Ali Khan, Manpower and Labour Minister Mohammad Ejazul Haq, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan, Shareefuddin Pirzada and Pakistani Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Walltulla Khan Khaishgi. [last three names as received]

The Saudi side was comprised of Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir, who is the accompanying minister of the Pakistani president, 'Abd-al-Mohsin al-Tuweijiri, the advisor at the crown prince's court, and Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Yusuf Muhammad al- Motabbakani. [passage indistinct]

Prince Khalid's 'Dismissal' Analyzed

NC1010092691 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 7 Oct 91 pp 1, 10

[Report by the political editor]

[Text] Sharp differences have emerged within the ruling Saudi family in the wake of the dismissal of Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan, commander of the joint forces during the Gulf war and son of Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz objected to the dismissal and demanded that a discussion be held on Prince Khalid's objections on the dismissal to the Saudi king. The report is Prince Khalid's view of the decision allowing U.S. troops to return to Saudi Arabia and the U.S. proposal to stockpile U.S. strategic weapons on Saudi territory.

In his report, Price Khalid contends that launching a new war against Iraq from Saudi territory is bound to harm Saudi Arabia's status in both the Arab and Islamic worlds. He noted that Arab and Islamic public opinion, which supported the Saudi stand during the Gulf war, will not find convincing justification for its stand on launching a new war on Iraq.

He said the support Saudi Arabia got will eventually shift to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, whose image will change from "an occupier and murderer" to a public hero who defends Arab and Muslim power and who is being subjected to a series of crusades designed to annihilate the Iraqi people.

In his report, Prince Khalid also voiced his rejection of the recent U.S. request to stockpile large numbers of U.S. strategic weapons in Saudi Arabia, as the case is with Israel and other Arab countries. Khalid said the U.S. request envisages the need for coordination between Saudi Arabia and Israel on the weapons, something which would clearly turn Saudi Arabia into a satellite for Israel and the United States.

Prince Khalid said the U.S. request ignores any direct Saudi role in this coordination process while giving full reign to the United States and Israel.

Prince Khalid did not object to the stockpiling of U.S. strategic weapons in Saudi Arabia as such; he insisted, however, that Saudi Arabia be given a prominent role in the coordination process. He also emphasized the need to state this explicitly in the security agreement with the United States, which is being prepared for signing in the near future.

Sources note that the Saudi king has rejected Prince Khalid's demands. Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Prince Khalid's father, shared the king views. Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz objected to the way the matter was handled. The differences spread to the young members of the ruling family, who regard Prince Khalid's viewpoint as a way to protect the Saudi throne against collapse.

UN Announces Cease-Fire in Iraqi Kurdistan

NC0910131191 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Geneva, Oct 9 (AFP)—The Iraqi Government and Kurdish rebels have concluded a cease-fire to end several days of fighting in northern Iraq, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) announced Wednesday. The HCR office in the northern Iraqi city of al-Sulaymaniyah reported that the cease-fire, worked out late Tuesday, was being observed Wednesday, the spokesman said.

The clashes erupted Saturday around two towns in northern Iraq and were reported by relief agencies to have sent 87,000 Kurds fleeing for safety.

Spokesman Manuel da Silva Alves said the truce was signed Tuesday by the governor of al-Sulaymaniyah, officials from the Iraqi Defense Ministry and Kurdish representatives. The accord calls for the return Wednesday of all troops "to their original location" and for an exchange of prisoners, according to Alves.

He said the truce would also enable HCR vehicles to circulate in the region, "which is very important as we are trying to build shelters before the winter."

The HCR was unable to confirm a report from a Belgian humanitarian organization, Medecins Sans Frontiers, that 87,000 Kurds had fled the village of Kalar northeast of Baghdad for areas further west and along the Iranian border.

Alves said the HCR put the number of refugees at 10,000.

Kurdish Radio Reports 'Text'

NC0910180791 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1706 GMT 9 Oct 91

["Text" of the document signed by representatives of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, the Central Coordination Committee, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan at a meeting on 8 October; place not given]

[Text] The two sides agreed on the following measures:

First, the cease-fire is to go into effect at 1700 on 8 October 1991 on all fronts and positions of the 1st and 2d Army Corps. The agreement will become null and void if military formations fail to withdraw from Kifri in accordance with the agreement signed with the commander of the 2d Army Corps.

Second, troop formations are to withdraw immediately to their former positions.

Third, captured officers and soldiers are to be returned to their military formations through the Central Coordination Committee, as of tomorrow. A number of officers will be held for some time by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, until the political detainees in Khanaqin, Karkuk, al-Sulaymaniyah, (Tanshamal), Kifri, and other areas are released.

Fourth, captured Army and civilian vehicles and weapons are to be returned to their respective military formations as of tomorrow.

Barzani Says 'Violators' Must Be Deterred

JN1010081091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani has emphasized the following to all top officials in the Kurdistan front parties in the governorates:

The decisions of the political leadership are crystal clear. The road to peace is preferred over all others. We will not see thousands of Kurds deported and evacuated every few days as a result of the personal behavior of some people who have no sense of responsibility. The peshmergas in the Kurdistan front have the right to defend themselves and the masses of Kurdistan in case they are attacked. The road must be firmly blocked to troublemakers. We cannot be just (?strugglers) [word indistinct]. They must be deterred if they seek to destabilize the situation. From now on, the top civilian and military officials in the front are responsible for the repeated and isolated behavior of violators.

Kurdish Leader Talabani Speaks on Iraq, Autonomy

TA0810133591 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2015 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Mehmet Ali Birand in the "32d Day" program, in English with superimposed Turkish translation; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Talabani] We do not want to separate from Iraq. We want to remain a part of it. The main disagreement with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is on the size of the autonomous region. He wants to take away half of the region, including Karkuk. The second disagreement is on the establishment of a democratic system that will allow genuine autonomy to function. If the democratic system is not established in Baghdad and our rights are not granted within that framework, then autonomy will not succeed. Those are the reasons for the present disagreement.

[Birand] Do you believe that this agreement will be concluded soon, or is there a long way to go?

[Talabani] I think it is still far away. The Ba'th Party does not want real democracy. It does not intend to change the dictatorship and grant our fundamental rights. It even opposes our establishing a relationship with other countries.

[Birand] Is there any danger of the renewal of clashes in the region?

[Talabani] Should the allied forces stationed in Turkey be withdrawn, then the Iraqi Government will attack the region. The allied forces are our only guarantee. No clashes will break out as long as they are stationed there. That is why we have called on the Turkish Government to prolong the mandate of that force and why we received a positive reply.

[Birand] What is happening with Saddam? You were one of those who predicted that the Iraqi leader would soon be toppled. Yet he is still leading the country. Is he able to control the situation?

[Talabani] Saddam is not the leader of the entire country anymore. He is able to control the large cities. The rural areas, however, are under the control of the opposition. Those who are clinging to power are the Ba'th party members. They are the ones who control the army and the secret police and can therefore silence everyone.

[Birand] Let us make a guess. How long do you believe Saddam will stay in power—months or years?

[Talabani] I do not think the Iraqi dictatorship will last for a long time. It is facing crucial problems. The people, moreover, are in favor of democratization. I cannot give a definite time, since such a development depends on various factors.

[Birand] Mr. Talabani, what do you ask of the Turkish Government? In what way can it help you?

[Talabani] Turkey is our biggest neighbor. We are trying to increase our cooperation with it and open up new roads. We need the support of the Turkish state and Turkish businessmen for the reconstruction of northern Iraq. We have also called on Europe for assistance. We expect help to come from there. We will be able to receive this support through Turkey. The Iraqi Government, however, prevents us from doing so. Winter is approaching. We need food and medicine. We have asked for these commodities and received a very positive reply.

[Birand] There are quite a number of reports in the Turkish press saying that, on the one hand, you request help from Turkey and, on the other, certain Kurdish groups are using your territory for terrorist activities. Turkey has already drawn your attention to that situation. What can you do to improve it?

[Talabani] We are anxious not to be in a position that disturbs Turkey. We have warned all Kurdish groups in the Middle East, including those living in Syria, Iran, Iraq, and the Soviet Union, not to put us in a difficult position by using our territory for their operations. For a while the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] used this region for its military activities inside Turkey. We have warned them, and they have promised not to do so in the future.

[Birand] Do you believe them?

[Talabani] I have much experience with that organization and its leader. I hope they will keep their promises. I will do my best to stop this. I will write and ask them to consider the present situation and not use our territory for operations against Turkey.

[Birand] What can you do other than that?

[Talabani] I can only try to persuade them. I cannot be sure that they will heed our call. My task, however, is to explain to them that their stand is damaging overall Kurdish interests. Some PKK activities are harming our cause. While sympathy for the Kurds is being expressed in the West and assistance is being given, the kidnapping of civilians and tourists is creating a negative effect. These incidents are considered terrorist activities and are being denounced by the civilized world. Not everyone knows the difference between the PKK and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. They simply accuse all Kurds of being terrorists. This development is quite damaging to our cause.

[Birand] You also have your own Peshmergas. Can you not keep the area under control with their aid?

[Talabani] It is not so easy. You know that we have a very long and mountainous border with Turkey, stretching from Syria to Iran. We cannot completely control it. At this moment, our troops are waging a fight against Iraq. We do not have, unfortunately, such a large number of troops or weapons.

[Birand] Do you mean to say that you are not in favor of using force against another Kurdish group? Is that impression true?

[Talabani] If you want me to be honest and frank with you, the answer is yes. We do not want to engage in an armed struggle with another Kurdish group. We do not want to fight amongst ourselves. Even this stand, however, has its limitations. Should our interests be undermined, we will be obliged to defend ourselves.

[Birand] What is your choice? The PKK or your relationship with Turkey?

[Talabani] This is a very crucial question. Our priority is the protection of the Kurds living in Iraq and the preservation of their interests. Incidents happening in other areas are not under our responsibility. The PKK has come to the point where it is damaging the interests of the Iraqi Kurds. We will not cooperate with them. That is final. Turkey is supporting us currently. We are doing our best to promote this atmosphere of cooperation. In brief, priorities must be determined in accordance with the principles.

SFRY Reportedly Provided Chemical Weapons

AU0910192291 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Paris, Oct 9 (AFP)—Yugoslavia provided chemical warfare factories and weapons to Iraq, and some of

its Army units in Serbia are also due to receive "chemically-tipped" rockets by the end of November, the MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE NEWS publication reported here.

The twice-monthly newsletter quoted extensively from what it said were documents made available by the Office of the Federal President of Yugoslavia, noting that the Federal Army had begun to equip combat forces in Serbia with the rocket launching system in June.

Giving details of the documents, the newsletter quoted sources at the office of the president as saying: "Yugoslavia is responsible for supplying Iraq with the technology to produce Sarin chemical weapons in 1986 and was instrumental in the construction of a chemical factory for the same weapon between the years 1983 and 1985."

The Unis Associated Metal Industry of Sarajevo received an order in December 1987 from the Al Qaqaa [spelling as received] State Establishment for propellant powder to be used in the manufacture of 130 mm artillery charges, and another order dated June 13 1988. Some of the documents referred to the plant as being at Al-Iskandariyah.

The publication said that the Sarin plant was probably the Al Muthena [spelling as received] State Establishment south west of Samarra.

Yugoslavia also provided the design for manufacture in Iraq of a rocket launcher system designated in Yugoslav inventories as the M87. "Each launch vehicle can ripple fire 12 262 mm rockets, which were designed from the start to carry chemical warfare agents," Mednews said. The first two unassembled launchers were shipped to Iraq in 1988, it said.

The report went on to say that "the Yugoslav firms Bratstvo and Zrak also built a 122 mm Howitzer factory near Al-Fallujah, code-named KOL7-Saad 5. The Iraqis refer to this plant as the Saddam State Establishment."

Yugoslav factories continue to manufacture the M87 rocket launchers, it said, with the Yugoslav Federal Army in June this year installing one M87 battery it had initially purchased for training at the Zadar military academy "in combat positions near Cuprija in central Siberia". [as received] The purchase order was doubled to eight launchers and two control units, and delivery was scheduled to take place on September 25 1991, the report said.

"In addition," the Mednews report concluded, "Yugoslav units located near Kragujevac in central Serbia are slated to receive more than 2,000 chemically-tipped rockets for the M87 by the end of November."

Arab Conference To Begin 10 Oct

JN0910154891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Under the patronage of his excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, on Thursday, Baghdad will see the opening of the third conference of the Arab popular forces. This conference will be held under the slogan "Lift the Blockade Imposed on Iraq."

A representative of leader President Saddam Husayn will deliver an opening speech containing an analysis of the Arab nation's state of affairs and identifying the means of confronting the fateful challenges facing the nation.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and chairman of the Higher Committee charged with making preparations for the conference, told INA that the noble gathering in Baghdad will bring together the vanguard of the Arab nation's strugglers and thinkers to defend the Arab nation, and is an expression of solidarity with lofty Iraq under leader President Saddam Husayn.

'Abd-al-Ghafur added that the overall favorable response to the conference invitations is merely an example of the nobility and awareness of the Arab popular forces regarding the need to confront the imperialist-Zionist-U.S.-Atlantic conspiracy, and of their readiness to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation.

Conference 'Test' of Sincerity

JN1010092291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—Two Iraqi papers have said that to support Iraq and its people is an assertion of genuine pan-Arab affiliation reflecting knowledgeable understanding of the nature, objectives, and magnitude of the America-Atlantic-Zionist conspiracy.

In its editorial today, AL-THAWRAH says that the Arab popular forces attending the Baghdad conference realize that by supporting Iraq—which has become the Arab's idea, fortress, and symbol of challenge and steadfastness—they, in fact, are defending their own existence and role.

The paper adds: The time for gratuitous positions and confused politics is over. Everything is now clear. Arab officials are openly queuing in the American line, are openly launching war against a brother, and are openly expressing a readiness to recognize Israel. Indeed, these official Arabs are publicly boasting their disgrace. The Arab regimes do not need popular Arab forces. Iraq, besieged and wounded, with all of its steadfastness and pride, has become the shelter and the fortress.

The paper stresses that honorable Arabs, in all their affiliations, are underscoring their support for Iraq and

countering the unjust American-Atlantic blockade against the country. This counteraction will not be content merely with condemnation and denunciation, but will take the form of organized work. This is the task of the conference. It is a test of the ability of the Arab popular forces to translate their positions into tangible actions that will be capable, through pressure and deeds, of breaking the links of the unjust blockade against Iraq, beginning with the first link. Breaking only one link will be enough for the others to collapse as well.

AL-THAWRAH says that the participants in Baghdad's conference today accentuate the Arabism of the Arabs and represent the Arabs' refusal to live under the U.S. order, which is darkness. They are stressing to the entire world that the nation stands with Iraq and that Bush is the master of only a handful of agent Arab rulers. But the Arab nation, with all its forces and honorable men, stands with Iraq—with Iraq, with Palestine, with itself, and with its rights.

For its part, AL-QADISIYAH stresses that helping to lift the blockade against Iraq not only returns the Arab nation to a healthy course, but is also part of the revolutionary struggle to expose and confront the false new world order, which Washington and the capitals of the West seek to impose on the world on the rubble of democracy and human rights. [passage omitted]

Settlers Evacuate Silwan Building

TA0910153591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] The settlers have evacuated the building they had seized in Silwan and have welded its gates shut. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the settlers left part of their equipment inside the building. It was agreed that the police will keep close guard over the other building, Meyuhas House, that Knesset Members Ge'ula Kohen and Mikha'el Eytan, as well as several settlers, are still occupying.

The 'Amidar building company will post four guards near every building that was evacuated, supplementing the police patrols of the site.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal adds that in a debate at the Construction and Housing Ministry this afternoon it became clear beyond any shadow of a doubt that all the contracts given to the settlers' society are legal and valid. It turns out that six of the seven plots of land in Silwan that the settlers came to this morning are in 'Amidar's possession and are under its management. 'Amidar, for its part, leased the apartments to members of the society so that they could be inhabited.

Arye Bar, director general of the Construction and Housing Ministry, told our correspondent that he does not doubt that the documents presented to the attorney general prove beyond question that the settlers society operated legally this morning when it moved to populate the plots of land, and that the society members would shortly be able to move back into the houses they leased.

Our correspondent also notes that 'Amidar is meanwhile submitting a complaint to the police, charging several Arab residents who squatted on one of these plots today with trespassing.

Shamir on 'Mistaken' Action

TA1010054491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The four Knesset members who took part in the settlers' entry into dwellings in the City of David yesterday continue to occupy the Meyuhas House. One of them, Mikha'el Eytan, has called on his Likud colleagues to stop criticizing the takeover by the settlers. Eytan said epithets such as thieves in the night applied to the settlers by Likud officials could cause a swing to the right by the party's traditional supporters.

Last night, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called the action, carried out as it was, mistaken. Shamir was speaking at a security cabinet meeting at which other government ministers also expressed criticism. Not, however, Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon; he says the struggle for Jerusalem has begun. [passage omitted]

Citizens Rights Knesset Member 'Oded Zucker charges that the Housing Ministry orchestrated the move by settlers into homes in Silwan in order to torpedo the peace process. Zucker says the ministry has purchased almost 50 percent of the land in the area. [passage omitted]

Legal Opinion Expected

TA0910175691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The attorney general and the state's attorney are currently looking into the legal question of the status of the buildings seized today in Silwan, and a final decision on the matter will probably be made tomorrow night. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police have given the attorney general intelligence estimates on the village, a review of all the incidents that have taken place there since the outbreak of the intifadah, and an opinion regarding the difficulty of guarding Jewish homes in the place. In the opinion of police headquarters, the activity in Silwan will require confining to the village a unit of at least 100 policemen. If such a level of preparedness continues, the police's routine activity may suffer, considering the fact that large forces of police need to be on hand on the controversial Route 1 in Jerusalem on Saturdays [when ultra-Orthodox Jews, protesting vehicular traffic on the Sabbath, try to prevent cars from passing].

Our correspondent adds that all is currently quiet in Silwan. All the houses that were seized this morning by the settlers have been evacuated except for one, Meyuhas House, where a family of settlers and several Knesset members still remain. He also adds that during a tour of Silwan this evening by the police commissioner and the commander of the Jerusalem area police, it was decided that all the security duties in the village will be undertaken by the police and that private guards will not be allowed.

Minister Refa'el Eytan says that the police chief should resign if his statement that he cannot guarantee the well-being of Jerusalemites is true. Minister Eytan contends that the houses in Silwan are clearly Jewish property, and the police must secure the residents' safety everywhere in their area of jurisdiction. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 9 October broadcasts excerpts of an interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by correspondent Ron Nesi'el today. Meridor states: "In Jerusalem there is no need to conduct a nighttime military operation to enter homes. If someone owns a home, he can enter it in broad daylight, not in a secret and demonstrative way. No good will come out of actions done that way. We dwell in all of Jerusalem, including parts that had formerly been under Jordanian occupation. We will continue to settle Jerusalem. More than 100,000 Jews already reside east of what was known previously as the Green Line, and these numbers will continue to grow. Yet whatever is done should be done wisely. I regret that these acts were performed in ways that do not strengthen Jerusalem at all. The issue of settling Jews in Jerusalem should not

hurt us because the whole world knows, and we repeat periodically, that Jerusalem is the Israeli capital, under Israeli sovereignty. We are there and will continue to be there and settle it.'"]

Ruling Expected 'Next Week'

TA1010122891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] In a new development in the Silwan affair, the attorney general's bureau has stated that the resolution of the issue will be based mainly on security considerations and not necessarily on the settlers' title to houses in Silwan.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police and the security forces have forwarded to the attorney general a lot of material on the security aspect of the Silwan affair. Our correspondent notes that in the context of the intifadah, Silwan is considered to be one of the toughest places. The attorney general is taking all these considerations into account.

It was further stated that, in any event, the gathering and analysis of the relevant material will take several days, and a final decision on the issue can be expected only at the end of next week.

Disturbances in East Jerusalem

TA0910185191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] There were disturbances in East Jerusalem today. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that in Wadi al-Hilwah calls over bullhorns urged residents to come out and demonstrate against the settlers in Silwan. In Abu-Tor, the residents burned tires, overturned garbage containers, and threw rocks at a Border Police contingent.

Settlers: Move Unrelated to Baker, Bush

TA1010131091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The City of David settlers held a news conference in Jerusalem this morning in which they announced that they will appeal to the High Court of Justice against their evacuation by the police. Our police affairs correspondent Asaf Ya'ari reports:

Avi Ma'oz, a member of the El'ad Association, explained that seizing the houses in the City of David in Silwan was not part of a campaign to torpedo the peace conference. It was not done in reaction to acts by James Baker or George Bush, but as part of the association's plan. Ma'oz added that the police evacuation of the settlers was an illegal act. [passage omitted]

Arens Disappointed With U.S. on Iraqi Protest

TA0910164391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today that he is disappointed with the U.S. reaction concerning the Israeli F-15's that were seen flying over Iraq. Minister Arens added that the Iraqi protest set a new record for hypocrisy and cynicism, in view of the fact that Iraq launched 40 Scud missiles at Israel during the Gulf war. Our correspondent Udi Segal filed the following report:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Minister Moshe Arens referred to the political developments: We are making efforts for the peace process. We are waiting for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, due here next week, to discuss and see what progress was made by the various parties.

Referring to the peace conference, Minister Arens said that Syria is coming to the conference with very high expectations. He believes that the Syrians hope the United States will support their demand that Israel return to the borders of 1967. I am a little concerned that their expectations are too high: that might lead to frustration and greater problems.

Concerning the U.S. request that Israel stop its flights over Iraqi territory, the minister said he is disappointed, and that the Iraqi protest is cynical and hypocritical:

[Arens] I must say I am disappointed. I believe the Iraqi protest—after they fired missiles at Israeli civilian population centers during the Gulf war—sets a new record for cynicism and hypocrisy. I believe this is very clear to all. That is why I was disappointed to hear that the United States joined this protest.

[Segal] The defense minister said that this stand will be made clear in Washington as well. According to him, Israel will continue taking action to maintain its security.

[Arens] I do not want to speak about the operational aspect of the Air Force operations. Nevertheless, I wish to state unequivocally that the Israeli Government is responsible for the security of the state and the people of Israel. We will do whatever we think necessary under the current circumstances, as we see them. The Iraqis are still able to launch missiles at Israel. Every peace of intelligence, therefore, is important to us.

[Segal] The defense minister also repeated remarks Prime Minister Shamir made yesterday and said that in the discussions leading to negotiations with the Arab dictators, as he called them, he certainly does not expect the United States to be an honest broker; he wants it to support the Israeli position.

Minister Arens reiterated his stand on the settlement issue, saying that 100,000 Jews in Judaea and Samaria are no obstacle to peace. They are the proof that Jews and Arabs can and do live together, and will have to find

a joint path to peace, the minister said. Arens was speaking before the United Jewish Appeal conference in Jerusalem. [end recording]

Self-Defense Steps To Continue

TA1010063291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, says this morning that it is a known fact that Iraq launched 40 missiles at Israel and that even today, Saddam Husayn still has the ability to launch missiles at Israel. The Israeli Government is obliged to do everything necessary for the State of Israel's defense, and it will continue taking the steps necessary to exercise its right of self-defense. [passage omitted]

Peres on Iraqi Overflights, Silwan

TA1010103891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Knesset Member Shim'on Peres says that Israel does not have to ask anyone's permission to fly over Iraqi sites that endanger its security; at the same time, aspects such as the timing and route of the flight should be considered.

In a meeting with Metulla residents, the Labor Party chairman further said that the Silwan settlement affair has no connection with the settling of Jerusalem, as it is purely a product of internal squabbles in the Likud and the right-wing parties.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that 21 Labor Knesset members are touring the Galilee and Golan Heights today within the framework of the party's meetings with residents of the north.

Editorial Defends Overflights

TA1010114991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Oct 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Solution Lies in Coordination, Not Protest"]

[Text] The disappointment expressed by the defense minister in the wake of the U.S. protest over Israel Air Force flights through Iraqi skies—be they fact or fiction—was far from a reflection of our true feelings.

Israel has all the reasons in the world to carry out reconnaissance flights over Iraq. Less than a year has elapsed since that country fired missiles at our cities and, judging by the evidence, it still retains the capability to bomb us again—and with more than conventional warheads.

It should be clear to the Americans: In the next flare-up, we will neither sit idly by nor stay "out of the game." Even the last time, when we heeded the Americans' appeals "to trust them," not only were we not spared direct hits and damages, we were even obliged to accept the American "bill" for the protection they supposedly gave us.

Israel should, therefore, "keep an open eye over Iraq," and in view of the recent revelations from that country, it is even entitled to do so. The claim that the Americans are supplying us with all the necessary information is not valid. They are not supplying us with everything, and they do not know everything.

Only one of their claims is somewhat justified: Our flights could interfere with the UN inspection flights. But the solution to that is coordination, not protests.

Sharon on Settlements; To Run for Prime Minister

TA0910210191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1940 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Yoram Ronen, political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, and settlement affairs correspondent Beni Liss, on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Good evening, Minister Sharon.

[Sharon] Good evening.

[Ronen] Minister Sharon, did know ahead of time about the Gush Emunim intention to seize the houses in Silwan last night?

[Sharon] I did not know about last night. In general, I knew about intentions concerning Silwan. I only want to stress: This is not a settlement. This is not an act of squatting in somebody else's property. They exercised the right of Jews to live in houses owned by Jews, leased according to law, in Jerusalem, Israel's capital.

[Ronen] Why did they wait for last night, for this sensitive time? You said that the right has been there for years. Why did they not do it several years ago?

[Sharon] This has been going on for several years. For example, Meyuhas House, in which people stayed this evening, originally belonged to PJCA [Palestinian Jewish Colonization Association, which was involved in settlement projects in the 1920's]. It was handed over to 'Amidar housing company, which leased it, and it has belonged to the El'ad Association since 1986. There are houses from 1987 or 1988, all fully owned by Jews, and there is no question about that. As for why they did not do it years ago, each case has to be examined separately. In Jerusalem, where every house has its own history, it is possible that someone lived there. Perhaps they waited for the houses to be emptied. That is why there is no problem here. The whole description of squatters and settlement is out of place. I also heard the talk about going there at night. I was very sorry to see that in the State of Israel, the land of Jews, Jews have to move at night in order to get safely to their own houses. They were not sneaking and hiding from a foreign ruler.

[Ronen] Why not do it in broad daylight?

[Sharon] You are familiar with the situation in Jerusalem. You know that in terms of security, Jerusalem is in a state of absolute chaos. It is absolutely untamed. We know what is happening in Jerusalem. Apparently, there is no other way to carry out such an act today. This is the shameful thing; it shows impotence and weakness.

[Sukenik] Mr. Sharon, even the prime minister, who is known for his support for our right to settle in Jerusalem, this evening, through his bureau, leveled criticism—though reserved—at the way this operation was carried out. These are sensitive times. We are on the eve of the peace conference and Baker's visit. Did we need this at this time? Was this the right way to do it?

[Sharon] Look, every time is sensitive here. Every year is sensitive, and things happen here every day. What happened today, I believe, indicates great weakness. It indicates that what we have always said—that when it comes to Jerusalem there is a consensus—is worthless. In view of what I saw today—ministers' remarks, the police forcefully evacuating Jews from Jewish property with Arabs known to be rioters watching—in view of that, the consensus is in fact worthless. It shows that the fight over Jerusalem, which some people here wanted to leave to the end, is already taking place. Judging from what we saw today, it is very hard to say that the government has the power to endure. This is a very difficult sight; it is very depressing; it makes me feel that whoever cannot sustain Jewish rule, provide security for the Jews, and allow Jews to live in their own houses, is perhaps not worthy of ruling. This is also possible.

[Ronen] You are speaking of the government, of which you are a senior member.

[Sharon] I am a senior member of it. To me this government is far better than those of the Alignment. It has its weaknesses, however. They say sometimes that the people are weak. They are strong. The leadership sometimes shows signs of weakness, which affects the people. That is the problem. I would say that this brings disturbing thoughts to mind. We heard the remarks made today; we saw the panic. Why? This was all about Jewish life in Jerusalem, Israel's capital.

Look at what is happening: Thousands of Arabs have moved, and are moving, to municipalities such as Jerusalem, to where some 70,000 Arabs have moved since 1967. Some Arabs moved to Ramla, others to Yafo. No one is commenting on that. When it comes to Jews, everyone is scared and panicking. Let me tell you a story: An Arab drug addict, a criminal, took over an 'Amidar apartment in Yafo. The police were very careful about his evacuation, God forbid. Efforts were made to convince him to leave. When, however, the issue involves Jews, Israel's capital, sensitive times.... [sentence incomplete as heard] What is so sensitive about it? What do we want? Do we want someone to like us? This is the capital of Israel that we are talking about. This only shows you that even Israel's capital is not safe today.

[Liss] Mr. Minister, Revava was set up in the middle of the night, just before Baker came here; Eshkolot was set up at night after Baker left; and here again, at night before Baker arrives, another settlement. Is this not a sign of weakness?

[Sharon] Allow me to put you in your proper place, if you will forgive the expression. Baker came here seven times. One new settlement was set up on the eve of his arrival or while he was here; I refer to Revava. Incidentally, a private group of Jews bought the land and set up the settlement, with the approval of the prime minister and the defense minister. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Mr. Minister, last year we saw great momentum in the settlement drive. Perhaps you have second thoughts and think now that in the end we stand to lose from it, as it increases U.S. pressure on us to freeze settlement and perhaps even pull out of the territories. President Bush pointed an accusing finger at you, without actually naming you. [passage omitted with videoclip of President Bush's news conference in which he refers to "some disquieting statements by one rather flamboyant minister"]

[Sukenik] Mr. Sharon, you have not yet commented on this in public. In the past few weeks you have even assumed a lower profile. It looks as though in the United States, at least—a country which is still very important for us—you have become persona non grata.

[Sharon] First of all, I have never seen any official version by either Secretary Baker or President Bush to show that they referred to me. Incidentally....

[Ronen, interrupting] But it was clear that you are the minister Bush hinted at.

[Sharon] I ask you then: Have you perhaps heard such an official version? As a rule, I am not in the habit of addressing gossip. I ask you simply: Did you hear President Bush or Mr. Baker say so? After all, such remarks always come from someone who allegedly heard.

[Ronen] Do you think the minister President Bush referred to is not yourself?

[Sharon] Look, I did not hear my name here. I do not address things this way. It was you who said this, maybe others as well, as you and also maybe those others have been doing in a long list of other instances.

As for this business of being persona non grata, I do not take this as a personal offense. In general, you see, this is not a personal issue. What does concern me, however, is that in Israel the left wing, even some fellow Likud members, and sometimes even ministers rejoice whenever they hear such remarks. What is the glee all about? Does anyone think that when a certain individual is attacked personally the offense ends there? How did all this begin, after all? It started when the administration strongly attacked Mr. Zalman Shoval, our ambassador to Washington, who was left wounded on the diplomatic

battlefront with no one defending his honor. People thought this was an isolated incident.

[Ronen] But that very ambassador contended that the government must decide between continuing the settlement momentum and continuing to have friendly relations with the United States.

[Sharon] This is not what he was attacked for; you know exactly why he was attacked. We did not comment, just as we failed to react in any serious fashion when other ministers were the target of attacks. Those who think that this is something from which some benefits can be derived, or that this will remain in the [word indistinct] sphere are simply wrong. This is an insult to the state and it weakens the state.

[Sukenik] Are you implying that where this issue of settlement is concerned, Mr. Shamir abandons others and lets them weather, singlehanded, the blasts that come in reaction to the policy he supports? Does he, for instance, hide behind you when you constantly draw fire from the United States?

[Sharon] I think that Mr. Shamir has made known his positions on settlement most clearly. I hear him talk about this at almost every opportunity, almost weekly. I think in that sense he understands the importance of settlement and has made his positions very clear, whether by saying that settlement will continue for as long as we can see or by using other expressions. [passage omitted]

[Liss] Today, Mr. Minister, we are sacrificing our relations with the United States on the altar of the settlements. Our rift today is not with al-Sadat 14 years ago; we now have an open split with the United States, which has declared war on this issue. That is the difference. No one claims today that we are setting up dummy settlements.

[Sharon] I would like to ask you: We heard the blatant protest over the fact that Israeli aircraft allegedly—we do not know what exactly happened—flew over west Iraq on reconnaissance missions, when Israel has no information—and incidentally during the Gulf war we also did not receive all the intelligence we needed. This, in fact, compounds the protest and the complaint by Iraq, that murderous country which continues its killing and which the Americans claim still manufactures nuclear weapons to this very day. Is this the same as settlements?

Perhaps for once you should realize that the problem is not the settlements. Rather, the issue is one of principle: The United States, the U.S. Administration, wants to push Israel back to the 1967 borders at the first stage, and that is not the end of it; it also includes getting us out of Jerusalem and all the other places.

[Liss] Did you actually hear this, or do you feel it?

[Sharon] I suggest that we peruse the letter given to the Syrians. I admit that the government is not properly apprised, but quite a strange thing has happened in the past few months: The U.S. Administration—and naturally I will not divulge who in the administration, or where, or at what level—established contact with me. I, for one, no longer approach the prime minister to obtain information on letters Baker sends him; I simply know about them. So I can tell you that the letter to the Syrians includes an explicit U.S. statement about an Israeli withdrawal, and we know today that the United States plans to push Israel back to the 1967 borders and beyond.

[Sukenik] So are we going to the peace conference under terms you call impossible? You criticized the prime minister, or his policy, not long ago. Let us hear what you said about Mr. Shamir immediately after the cabinet said yes to Baker. [passage omitted with clip, dated 4 August 1991, in which Sharon complains of "a show of amazing weakness in conducting the negotiations," where "Israel did not present any demand and in fact accepted Arab preconditions" and in fact gave up "everything." Sharon says this "indicates the casual and amateurish way in which the negotiations are being conducted," which "bothers him."] Do you agree with your earlier statements? Judging by your tone of voice, you may be making even harsher statements now.

[Sharon] Well, certain things have happened since then. In my opinion we have given up a lot of things in that time and reversed ourselves on many issues on which we then insisted and which today no longer exist. That is why I think the situation has become worse. I think Israel is being led into what I previously called an international field court martial.

I favor a peace process; I favor direct negotiations with the Arab countries, it the goal a peace treaty. I favor finding the appropriate solutions to the Palestinian issue. I favor stopping the arms race; I favor democratization, and ending terrorism.

[Liss] Do you also favor freezing settlement for a prescribed period of time for the sake of the negotiations and to allow the peace conference to open?

[Sharon] My answer is an unequivocal no; this has been the government's position, as presented by the prime minister, other cabinet members, and myself many times. Israel will not cease this act, which forms part of a long-range program aimed at leaving in Israel's hands, in any future settlement—and, after all, we do not know what kind of political settlement we will have—the high areas, offering observation positions that are vital to Israel's existence.

[Ronen] What is happening today, however, Minister Sharon, is that because of the settlements we are steadily forfeiting prime strategic assets in the United States. Look at what has happened: Relations with the administration, Congress, and the public are steadily declining. We may thereby be losing our most important asset, namely friendship with the United States.

[Sukenik] With what money will we set up settlements, to put things bluntly?

[Sharon] Regarding relations with the United States, you know very well that the settlements are merely a pretext. The problem is not the settlements; it is how to bring Israel back to the 1967 borders.

[Ronen] To add to the previous question, what you said just now about Iraq is also symptomatic: The United States has decided that we may no longer be an asset. As a result, we are criticized by it on every issue, not only about settlements, but also about Iraq. Is this not symptomatic?

[Sharon] [passage omitted] The settlements are only an excuse. In fact, the war being waged today is not only against the settlements; it is against aliyah and the settlements. In fact, this is a century-old Arab campaign. Today, when I sat in the ministerial committee, I asked for that infamous White Paper of May 1939. I leafed through it a bit and thought to myself: How is it that back in 1939—and I was still a child then—we in Palestine, no more than 450,000 Jews, all stood together to face up to the great British Empire, and prevailed; whereas now, to my deep regret, what is happening is.... [changes thought] That happened because at that time we were all, without exception, united. Yet now we notice, I am sorry to say, that Jews join those who in fact oppose aliyah and settlement. They are joining the Arabs. Jews go all over the globe and cooperate with those who want to put an end to aliyah and settlement in Eretz Yisra'el. The Alignment—though not all its members—were mentioned here....

[Liss, interrupting] They would not have gone to the United States if that settlement activity had been confined to within the Green Line. The moment there is no consensus on this, why should they not go ahead?

[Sharon] [passage omitted] Those Alignment members—and, incidentally, not everything the Alignment did was bad—those men who established Hanita and who withstood the harshest battles, who brought to Palestine the waves of illegal immigrants [during the British Mandate]—although they were not the ones who started it, it was started by the Revisionists—they joined in this tremendous effort. What are they doing today, however? It is simply amazing. [passage omitted] What we have here is a very serious and dangerous phenomenon, which I believe requires leadership that will be able to stand up and present the facts to the nation the way they really are.

As for how we will survive economically, well, it is first of all important to present a plan—for five or 10 years—for gradually growing independent of the U.S. aid. I have said this before.

[Sukenik] In this context, let me ask you: We spend billions, including money for settlement in the territories. The question is whether we have the money for this. You have in fact adopted a policy that obviously leads us to a dispute with the United States. We have heard that the Braille library has shut down because of a 1-million shekel deficit; we have just heard about hundreds of the mentally disabled who are in need of a home. Do we have the money for all these projects? Moreover, we cannot offer the new immigrants jobs.

[Sharon] Look, first of all, everything is somewhat distorted. Apartments are being built, and they sell—as in Ari'el, for example, which is in the center of the country and only five minutes away from Kefar Sava. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] One final question, Mr. Minister: You mentioned the direct election of the prime minister. Before the latest elections, the Likud Central Committee agreed on one candidate, who was elected unanimously, for prime minister: Yitzhaq Shamir. I presume that the Likud Central Committee will soon be required to elect its candidate for the next government. Will there again be consent over that person being Yitzhaq Shamir, or will you run against him?

[Sharon] I will. It is not the case of contesting with someone, but running for something. I will definitely present my candidacy to carry out the correct policy to attain peace—and I believe that peace is attainable; a correct defense policy so that it will be possible to restore the Jews' confidence and restore safety for them in Israel or Eretz Yisra'el; and the right immigrant absorption policy. Thus my response to your question is: Yes, I will compete.

[Ronen] With the prime minister, even if you do not admit it?

[Sharon] I will run.

[Ronen] In that case, what your wife Lili said, that if you want to be prime minister you will, but that she was not sure you wanted it, can currently be updated: You do want it.

[Sharon, laughing] It seems that my wife, from her own experience, knows that if I want something, I get it.

[Ronen] Well, this, I presume, will be found out in the next few months as the elections are held, on time or perhaps earlier.

That is the end of our "Moqed" program with Minister Ari'el Sharon, together with Gadi Sukenik and Beni Liss. Good evening to you and thank you.

[Sharon] Thank you.

Likud Members: 'Political Swan Song'

TA1010100991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Oct 91 p A1

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon's announcement on television's "Moqed" program last night about his intention to

run against Yitzhaq Shamir for the Likud leadership and candidacy for prime minister was received with great disdain by upper Likud echelons. Shamir's aides contended that the announcement was Sharon's political swan song and that if he does run, his prestige will suffer a terrible blow.

A figure close to the prime minister said: "Sharon has the right to compete for the Likud chairmanship, just like any other Likud member; we are a democratic party. But there is nothing new about Sharon's announcement, and it left everyone cold. Sharon is past his prime, and his attempt to compete with Shamir's leadership is pathetic."

Pankin To Announce Renewal of Ties During Visit

TA1010094891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] During his visit to Israel 10 days from now, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin will announce the resumption of full diplomatic relations between the two countries, according to reports that reached Jerusalem yesterday.

The announcement about the resumption of relations will be made in Jerusalem by Pankin, who is due to arrive on Sunday, 20 October, or the following day. Nevertheless, political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that the announcement will probably not be forthcoming if Wednesday's talks with James Baker become deadlocked.

Senior officials hinted last night that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir no longer insists on receiving a memorandum of understanding from the United States because of the difficulties that have cropped up in the negotiations being conducted in Washington. A senior official in the Prime Minister's Office said last night that Israel will discuss with Baker the assurances to Israel and will then decide on its "preference" regarding the form these will take.

The prime minister's bureau is studying the possibility of receiving a unilateral letter of assurances from the United States, to which Israel would respond in writing. The Israeli letter would include government positions not accepted by the Americans, such as its stand that Security Council Resolution 242 does not require a withdrawal from all sectors, its opposition to raising the issue of Jerusalem in the discussions, and an announcement that the Israeli delegation will not sit with a Palestinian delegation that expresses identification with the PLO. [passage omitted]

The political sources also reported that following their meeting with Baker in Washington today, Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi may leave for Amman for final discussions on the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. The sources said that during his visit to Amman, which will precede his talks in Jerusalem, Baker will want to receive the final list of names so that he can then receive Israel's acceptance of the delegation's composition. [passage omitted]

Levi Returns Optimistic on Ties With U.S.

TA0910162291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Returning from the United States, Foreign Minister David Levi wants to lower the volume of the clash with the United States. It is natural to have differences of opinion, but it is not natural for us to fight through the media, the foreign minister said. Levi emphasized that no decision has been made yet on whether Israel would demand a memorandum of understanding or make do with a letter of assurances. At any rate, clearly the conference will not be convoked before the issue of the assurances has been settled.

[Begin Levi recording] The basic agreement we have with the secretary of state is that the date for the conference will be set when we settle and agree with him on the matters still outstanding, which is the purpose of his next visit here. The issue of the delegation is a fundamental one. The secretary of state promised, both during his latest visit here and during my meeting with him in New York, that this issue will be settled in accordance with the principles he had agreed upon with Israel, and that he would not surprise us. [end recording]

As for the voices from the right-wing parties that are members of the coalition and that oppose the conference, the foreign minister said: While peace does not depend exclusively on Israel, we must not allow Israel to be blamed for the failure to convene a conference.

The foreign minister also criticized the settlers who moved to Silwan today:

[Begin Levi recording] Clearly no one can do everything he or she wishes behind the government's back, solely on the grounds that the government supports settlement. The fact that the government supports settlement assures us that the people in charge of that issue are handling it and will continue to do so. [end recording]

The picture, as presented by Foreign Minister David Levi at the end of his two-week visit to the United States, is as follows: There is no rift with the United States, although there are differences of opinion. Moreover, there has even been progress on many subjects. The invitations to the conference will not be delivered before the letters of assurances have been formulated or before the matter has been coordinated with all parties involved. That is the optimistic picture painted by the foreign minister.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 9 October adds that Foreign Minister Levi, upon his return from the United States, said that "during his talks there substantial achievements were made with respect to the political process." Levi reportedly added that "it would be wrong to describe the United States as a hostile broker."]

Hopeful for Agreement on Settlements

TA0910184091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan at Ben-Gurion Airport upon Levi's return from the United States on 9 October—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, do you not have second thoughts about our going to the conference, having no assurances or letter of assurances? Do you still have complete faith in the United States as an honest broker?

[Levi] You are portraying a disaster and presenting me as one who, because of some personal caprice, is dependent on the United States. It is Israel that came up with the political initiative. The problems are very real, but we have overcome many of them and reached conclusions, which the United States stands by. We would like to attain additional things, which are indeed difficult to attain due to the U.S. desire, on the one hand, to stand by Israel; and on the other, not to appear to be working in tandem with Israel. The United States believes that if it appears to be working with Israel, it will fail to bring the other parties to the direct negotiations upon which Israel insists.

We will insist on our just causes, we will reach the positions in which we are interested, and we will preserve our relations with the United States. On such matters it is only natural that disagreements crop up, but it is unnatural for us to engage in a fight through the media, thereby pleasing our enemies and adversaries.

[Golan] Do you think there is a way to improve the bad relations with President Bush without freezing settlement prior to the conference?

[Levi] Look, we said in advance that there will be no preconditions, and this was acceptable to the United States. The secretary of state told us during his latest visit that he had turned down an Arab demand that Israel be required to freeze the settlement momentum. It is therefore unnecessary to present this matter as the obstacle or deep chasm that allegedly exists between us and President Bush. I believe it is necessary to reach an understanding with the administration, which we will reach.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 9 October broadcasts parts of Minister Levi's news conference at Ben- Gurion Airport, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles. To Arabic television political correspondent Shlomo Gamor's question about whether Israel still insists on a memorandum of understanding or a letter of assurances, Levi replies: "I read everything that was printed here, and have noticed the hullabaloo. As far as our affairs are concerned, the issue will be discussed with the prime minister. The main thing is what is best for Israel and the most effective way to attain the things we are interested in, which I believe we can attain. The content is most important."]

Palestinians To Raise New Issues With Baker

TA1010064091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Report by correspondent in the territories Moti Amir]

[Text] East Jerusalem sources attach great importance to today's meeting between the Palestinian delegation and Secretary Baker. They said last night that the delegates left for Washington for the purpose of securing U.S. agreement on two new issues which the Palestinians deem important.

The first issue involves finding a way to include Faysal al- Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi in the peace process without detriment to the basic terms of the conference—the two being East Jerusalem residents carrying Israeli passports—and without provoking Israel at the same time. To that end, the Palestinians propose to establish an advisory Palestinian council that will operate at the peace conference site. The council will include al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi, as well as representatives of the Palestinian diaspora. The sources said that the council will issue instructions to the Palestinian representatives on the negotiations—after coordination with the PLO, of course.

The second new issue to be raised in the meeting with Baker is the request for a guarantee that the peace conference will continue until an arrangement between the Palestinians and Israel is attained. The Palestinians will ask Baker to include in the paper of assurances a clause stipulating that the peace conference will not be terminated with the completion of arrangements between Israel and its neighbors unless an arrangement is also attained with the Palestinians. On this issue, the sources stressed: We do not trust even the Arab countries slated to participate in the conference.

RSA's De Klerk Expected 'In a Few Weeks'

TA0910204691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] South Africa's President de Klerk will make an official visit to Israel in a few weeks. This was reported today by Knesset Member Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino, chairperson of the Knesset's Economy Committee.

Our correspondent Eytan Almog reports that Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said at the committee session that Israel continually maintains contacts with all the political groups in South Africa and that major political changes should be expected there.

U.S. Nuclear Restraint Policy Causing Concern

TA1010075991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Oct 91 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The senior political level in Jerusalem is highly concerned about information concerning a U.S. decision at the Presidential level to restrain Israel in the nuclear field in order to force it to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

Senior government sources told HA'ARETZ that eliminating Israel's nuclear deterrence is one of President George Bush's main goals for the Middle East peace conference. Reports in September by members of the Israeli delegation to the annual conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna said the U.S. delegation cooperated and even coordinated tactical moves with the Egyptian delegation in order to pass a resolution that would state for the first time that all the countries of the Middle East will be bound by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

A senior political source has said that he does not doubt that the Washington administration was behind David Kay, the American chief of the UN inspection team in Iraq, who said in an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT that he would love to visit Israel's nuclear installations. Sources close to the prime minister said last night that his remarks at the Knesset about Israel's need for reasonable security margins should be seen in the context of the nuclear issue. [passage omitted]

Congress Postponed Due to King's Health

JN0910182091 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1801 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] A statement issued by the Royal Hashemite Court says that a sudden health indisposition ['aridun sihhiyun tari'] has forced His Hashemite Majesty King Husayn to stay in bed upon medical advice. The Royal Hashemite Court wishes his majesty a speedy recovery and announces that the national congress will be postponed until Saturday 12 October, at the same time and place specified in the invitation cards. May God protect his majesty and grant him good health and well-being.

Further on King's Condition

JN0910191791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The Royal Hashemite Court issued a statement tonight in which it announced that the national congress, which was scheduled to be held tomorrow, Thursday, has been postponed until Saturday, due to His Majesty King Husayn's suffering from a sudden health indisposition. [passage omitted]

In a telephone call made by the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY-PETRA to his majesty's private doctor, the doctor said His Majesty King Husayn is suffering from influenza, which prevents him from performing his daily tasks and which will force him to rest for a few days.

Foreign Minister Optimistic on Peace Conference

LD0910141191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Oct 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "New Jordanian Foreign Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Palestinian Identity Not For Bargaining"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has emphasized Jordan's fixed and clear position on the entire peace process in the region.

He said in his first press statement, which he made exclusively to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, that by virtue of its position in the region and by virtue of the rapidity of events and developments occurring on the Arab and international scenes it is not admissible for Jordan to depart from the international consensus, especially as it is concerned directly with peace in the region.

In his statement the Jordanian foreign minister emphasized the importance of the role which the Gulf Cooperation states are playing and the effectiveness and dimensions of that role for the success of the peace process and the convening of the proposed conference.

Dr. Abu-Jabir expressed his optimism about the convening of the peace conference scheduled to be held this month. He emphasized that Jordan will not abandon any Arab right, whether Palestinian or Jordanian.

The Jordanian official expected the conference in question to be held on 30 and 31 October.

On the recent Palestine National Council resolutions Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir said that they were realistic and practical resolutions that pursued a sound line without abandoning the Palestinian pillars and fixed principles that the council emphasized in its resolutions. He expressed Jordan's respect for that line and those resolutions.

On the present visit to Jordan by the Palestinian delegation headed by Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas "Abu-Mazin," the minister said: "The delegation met with the Jordanian monarch and senior officials, and we have been briefed on what happened in Algiers, on discussions taking place within the PLO, and on contacts with Arab brothers."

The minister denied that the two sides could have discussed the joint delegation subject and the names of the Palestinian side in the delegation proposed for the peace conference, pointing out that that was premature.

Regarding what is being circulated to the effect that the peace conference will lead to an autonomy within Jordan and Israel, which would mean settling the Palestinians outside or in the states hosting them, and which would also mean the abolition of the Palestinian identity, the Jordanian foreign minister emphasized Jordan's commitment to all Arab summit and Arab League resolutions vis-a-vis the PLO and to protecting the Palestinian entity, the Palestinian character, and the Palestinian identity. He also affirmed that Jordan always seeks to bolster every Palestinian move designed to consolidate the Palestinian identity.

On the opposition that has crystallized inside the Jordanian House of Representatives through its declared position toward the Tahir al-Masri government and its role in the peace process, the Jordanian minister commented by saying: Jordan is a democratic state, and this is our choice. Opposition is something healthy and natural. But this does not negate the fact that there is wide and clear popular support for Jordan's position on participation in the peace conference expected to be convened at the end of the month.

*'Aliyah Airline Sources Expect Flights to Iraq

92P40013A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Sep 91 p 10

[Excerpt] Sources within the Royal Jordanian Airlines ('Aliyah) expect the company to begin flying its planes to Baghdad during the first part of this October in order to transport travelers between Amman and Baghdad; however, no goods will be carried on board. This will be implemented when arrangements have been made, in order to facilitate travel and changes of residence for civilians, diplomats, and international employees. [passage omitted]

TV Interview With Waite To Air in 'Few Days'

NC0910165791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Citing informed sources, AL-DUWALIYAH NEWS AGENCY has reported that a television interview with British hostage Terry Waite, similar to the [7 October CNN interview] one with American hostage Terry Anderson, will be transmitted within the coming few days.

UN Chief Rejects Army Deployment in UN Areas

NC1010064791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Lebanese officials have been optimistic about implementing Resolution 425 and the Army's deployment in the rest of the southern areas. UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, however, has informed the Lebanese Government that he does not approve of the Lebanese Army's deployment in UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] areas in the south.

Perez de Cuellar said that if Lebanon deploys the Army in UNIFIL areas, UNIFIL contingents will redeploy elsewhere. Lebanese Ambassador to the United Nations Khalil Makkawi passed this message from Perez de Cuellar to Prime Minister 'Umar Karami.

In other news, the Israeli occupation forces have continued their acts of aggression in the south. Yesterday they shelled Haddathah, Haris, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin and Bra'shit, which has been under siege for six days now. The occupation forces brought new reinforcements to the Jazzin area and the central sector, notably near Burj al-Muluk, Dayr Mimas, al-Khardalah, and al-'Ayshiyah. Six tanks and 10 troop carriers were deployed in these areas. Reinforcements were also seen in armored vehicles in Marj 'Uyun and Hasbayya. Israeli warplanes flew over the south while Israeli gunboats were seen cruising the coast from Tyre to al-Zahrani.

Karami Rejects Direct Talks With Israel

NC0910173491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami told the Abu Dhabi-based AL- ITTIHAD newspaper that the mechanism for implementing Resolution 425 is explicit in Resolution 426. Karami rejected direct negotiations with Israel as useless and stressed that resistance is legitimate as long as there is occupation.

Karami Discusses Security, Israeli Withdrawal

NC1010084791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has said that intensive political moves should be expected soon because the convening of the peace conference has become imminent. Karami noted that lengthy discussions were held with the Americans on the draft message that will accompany the invitations to the peace conference, adding that the contents of the message have been amended to ensure the separation of Resolution 425 from the Middle East issue and the peace conference.

In an interview that will appear in today's edition of the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, Prime Minister Karami said: The draft message was discussed with the cabinet, which wanted to explain certain matters so there would be no room for bargaining or extortion, particularly regarding the simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli troops from Lebanon. We have often explained, Karami added, that the Israeli withdrawal is directed by Resolution 425 while the Syrian withdrawal is directed by the al-Ta'if accord. Prime Minister Karami said: We are still waiting for the U.S. response to the clarifications the cabinet asked for and which should be included in the U.S. message.

In the interview, the prime minister reacted to the Israeli demand for direct negotiations with Lebanon, saying: We are aware that Israel is procrastinating and attempting to embarrass Lebanon in order not to withdraw. We believe that Resolution 425 and the mechanism of the Israeli withdrawal in accordance with Resolution 426 is explicit and, therefore, no negotiations are needed. He added that the Lebanese state has pledged that when Israel withdraws from the last inch of Lebanese territory it will assume full responsibility for maintaining security nationwide, adding that this pledge was spelled out in front of U.S. President George Bush. There is no need, he added, for bilateral meetings because we have nothing to discuss.

Prime Minister Karami discussed the sudden outbreak of clashes in the south, reiterating that resistance is legitimate as long as occupation exists. Tension has always been generated by the Israeli attacks on southern areas, he concluded.

Khaddam: Arabs Cannot Sell One Inch of Land

JN0510095891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Oct (WAKH)—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam has said that attempts are under way to vitalize and push forward the peace process. Syria has dealt positively with these efforts because it believes in them, he said, adding that his country will continue to deal positively with the peace moves. If a peace allowing us to restore our national and pan-Arab rights is achieved, we will have fulfilled our objectives, he said. "If not, the entire world will know that the enemy is closing all doors to peace," he added.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published in Abu Dhabi today, Mr. Khaddam said the Arabs want peace, and there are many Arab summit resolutions to this effect. But the matter does not hinge on the Arabs, he explained, because there exists "a usurper enemy that categorically refuses to abide by international legitimacy and comply with UN resolutions."

Mr. Khaddam stated that there is an agreement to hold meetings to coordinate among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. He said the Arabs should not go to the negotiations "with their disagreements and disputes." Any such disagreements will serve the Israeli enemy, he said.

Mr. Khaddam called on the Arab parties participating in the peace process to coordinate positions, but said the question of a limited Arab summit has not been discussed. The agreement, he explained, provides for holding meetings to coordinate and unify positions.

Commenting on Israeli leaders' statements that Israel will not quit the occupied territories, Khaddam said that not a single Arab participating in the peace process can sell out one inch of the occupied territories or a single right of the national Palestinian rights.

Asked about Syria's position on Israel's attempts to attend regional meetings on water, he said Israel has no right to a single drop of water in the region. "It is absolutely unacceptable for Israel to be a party to any arrangements on water or any other issues in the region," he said.

Israel's Plan To 'Ruin' Conference Viewed

JN0810171891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Gentlemen: Enemy Prime Minister Yitshaq Shamir has claimed that the Golan Heights, which Israel annexed in 1981, will remain annexed because, he said, they constitute a vital component of Israel's security. He also alleged that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are an integral part of Israel, like the Negev desert or Galilee. But Jerusalem, he added, is Israel's eternal capital, whose fate will never be discussed in any peace negotiations. Shamir also threatened to withdraw from the proposed peace conference if the Arabs insisted on regaining their occupied territories because, he alleged, such insistence will prove the Arabs' desire not to bring about peace.

Shamir was not satisfied with all these no's and conditions that are threatening the entire peace process, the pessimism he has spread, and the questions he has raised, but went further to express his disappointment when the United States violated one of his Zionist principles by linking the peace process with Jewish immigration. In Shamir's view, the United States should open its treasury to finance Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories and to directly participate in the declared Israeli war against the Arabs. The whole world should also believe that Israel strongly aspires to peace.

Shamir, a veteran terrorist, is still living in the 1948 atmosphere and sees nothing except aggression and repression as a way of expanding the Zionist entity. His plans constitute a serious challenge to the United States and the international community. What Shamir has announced is not only a rejection of peace, but an insistence on expansion, aggression, violation of the UN resolutions, and a destruction of the U.S. efforts based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. [passage omitted]

If the peace conference is convened, the Arabs will ask for their occupied territories and for securing the Palestinian people's legitimate right to liberation and self-determination. They are not concerned with Shamir's threats, whether he withdraws from the conference or not. The Arabs responded to the U.S. proposals and international endeavors, because they have accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the exchange of land for peace. They responded to all this because President Bush officially committed himself before the whole world to achieving a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts that will lead to the retrieval of the occupied territories in exchange for peace.

Syria and all the Arabs adhere to the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. We will not bargain over our territories or relinquish our rights. This is approved by the international community and its resolutions and laws. If the peace conference is ruined, Israel alone will be responsible for pushing the Middle East to the brink of explosion.

India

Delhi Details Kidnapping of Romanian Diplomat

BK0910131091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] The top Romanian diplomat has been kidnapped by suspected Sikh militants in New Delhi. The charge d' affaires of the Romanian mission in New Delhi, Mr. Liviu Radu, was proceeding in his embassy car to his office around 0815 this morning [0245 GMT], when two youths intercepted his vehicle in a posh south Delhi locality and took him hostage. Reports suggest that the two youths came in a white Maruti and were waiting for Mr. Radu, who was alone in his car. Police sources say the two militants forced their entry into Mr. Radu's car and sped away. The abduction is believed to be in retaliation to the arrest of a militant who attacked the Indian ambassador in Romania, Mr. J.F. Ribeiro, on the 20th of August in Bucharest. All entry and exit points from New Delhi have been sealed and strict watch is being kept at domestic and international airports. The Haryana government has also sounded a red alert in view of the incident.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman has described the incident as most unfortunate and said everything possible is being done to trace Mr. Radu. A high-level meeting was today convened by the minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, to review the situation following the kidnapping. Senior officials from the Home and External Affairs Ministries and the police commissioner of Delhi attended the meeting.

Sikh Group Claims Responsibility

BK1010092691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] A newly formed militant outfit in Punjab has claimed responsibility for the abduction of the Romanian charge d'affaires, Mr. Liviu Radu, while the police found both the missing cars involved in the kidnapping. A caller of the outfit told PTI's [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] Amritsar bureau telephonically today that they take responsibility for the abduction, but refused to say anything further. The police found a Romanian-made black color (Daichya) car owned by the diplomat and a white Maruti with a fake registration number abandoned at the Sundarnagar area in New Delhi. Intensive search is on to nab the kidnappers and trace the Romanian diplomat. Our correspondent Sarita Barara who visited the Romanian Embassy reports:

[Begin recording] [Sarita] Even as the security outside Romanian Embassy remains tight, the mood inside became more relaxed when the news of the recovery of Mr. Radu's (Daichya) car and the Maruti in which he was kidnapped poured in. A spokesman said that they are now very hopeful. He said he was satisfied with the measures taken by the Indian Government.

[Romanian spokesman] In our opinion, the Indian Government in these two days took all security measures for our embassy and for all members of the embassy. Hence, we want to thank for these measures taken in the last two days.

[Sarita] The spokesman said they were waiting for the good news any moment even as 30 hours have elapsed since the incident took place. [end recording]

Areas in Kashmir, Jammu Placed Under Curfew

BK0910164691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the border areas of Jammu District have been placed under night curfew for two months. The curfew will be enforced from 2100 to 0500. The step is being taken against possible subversive and anti-national activities with help from across the border.

Communists Not To Field Candidate Against Rao

BK1010044491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Oct 91

[Text] The Communist Party of India has decided not to field its candidate against the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in the coming by-election in the Nandyal parliamentary constituency. The decision was taken by the state executive committee in Hyderabad. The committee decided to support the Telugu Desam candidates in the by-election from the Cuddapah parliamentary constituency and five state assembly constituencies.

Iran

Khamene'i Attacks U.S. 'Enmity' To Islam

LD0910133291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i at meeting with families of martyrs on 9 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I welcome all the brothers and sisters, especially those who have come a long distance from various towns and cities. [passage omitted] Although today, the arrogant powers are galloping in a defenseless arena without any rival to challenge them, nevertheless even the biggest arrogant powers of the world today are afraid of the spiritual and religious sentiments of the nations. The only thing that has stood against unbridled and unrivalled U.S. power today and that is scaring the United States is the same spiritual awakening of the people, particularly in the Islamic world. It is the religious morale and tendency toward spirituality that have appeared among many nations. This is due to you and your struggle.

The Iranian nation has demonstrated its substance. The movement that the Iranian nation began and is continuing with strength, praise be to God, will awaken more nations as days pass. It will make them more vigilant and more acquainted with their duty, and will make them more aware of the hostility of the superpowers. The future of the Iranian nation wil be bright too, God willing. Any nation that moves with such morale, will have a bright future. This is a divine gift and it is necessary to express gratitude for this gift.

What we should always remember and not forget is our duty at this juncture in time. What is our duty in return for the divine gift? I am saying that the biggest duty of the Iranian nation today is spiritual jihad, which is named the greatest jihad. [passage omitted]

Do not think that the enemies of Islam have ceased their enmity toward Islam; they are hatching plots daily. If they find a foothold they will go one step further. They should not be given the chance. If ever they could come one step forward they would. If they were told: You are bent on treachery, crime, and hegemony, they would, of course, deny it. But if they get the chance they would come forward, trench by trench. That is how the enemy is.

When the United States brought its troops to the region we gleaned from their remarks that they did not intend to come here, do a job, and leave. They want to be the gendarmes of this region. We said that they intended to stay in the region, that they wish to control this important, sensitive, and vital region, which the whole world will go on needing for many years. The Persian Gulf is vital to the world. They want to possess it and control it.

We said this on that day. One or two U.S. personalities immediately said in speeches or interviews: No, we do not want to remain in Kuwait; we will leave. As you can see, they are busy building bases in Kuwait today, busy making plans to stay. They were lying then and they are lying now, and their existence and policy are based on lies. [crwod chants "God is great," and "Death to America, Britain, hypocrites, and Israel"]

Those who say that they are not against Islam are telling lies. They are the very dangerous enemies of Islam. When they say that they support human rights they tell lies. These very arrogant powers, and the Great Satan today, are the biggest enemies of humanity and human rights. When they say that they have no hostile intentions against the nations of the region they are telling lies. They intend to enslave the nations of the region. When they say that they like Iran and they are willing to have relations with Iran they tell lies. They want to rule the way they did in the past. They intend to revive the same situation that prevailed in Iran in the past. Beware; this nation is no longer the one it used to be. [crowd chants "Death to America and Israel"]

This nation has been awakened by Islam. Anywhere that this nation can detect the desire and the will of the arrogant powers it will stand against them; the nation has so far stood against them and will continue to do so. And relying on God's will it will be victorious as well.

That is the way the satans of the world are. No mockery of Islamic values is more painful than Americans claiming that they are supporters of humanity and human rights. Look at the Palestinians, at their plot against the Palestinians. Can they be supporters of human rights? The nations are filled with hatred and anguish; those who are aware and those who are intelligent among the ranks of the nations yearn to cry out and to say something. They yearn to see the banner of revolt against arrogant powers hoisted and to follow that banner. Today that banner is in your hands; hold on to it tightly. [passage omitted]

Wherever you are in the country, every single one of you must believe that your first task is to defend the revolution and Islam and do so by standing behind your caring and serving officials and on the road to building this great country and confronting arrogance. Then God shall bless you. May God make you successful and make the souls of our martyrs happy, and heal our disabled and give patience to their families. May God bring good news from POWs and MIAs and give blessing to the dear nation.

Israeli Violation of Iraqi Airspace Condemned

LD0910173291 Tehran IRNA in English 1209 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—Iran today "strongly denounced" Israel for violating the airspace of Iraq and certain other countries in the region last week. First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES to appear in Thursday's issue of the paper, considered the Israeli measure an attempt to put pressure on the Muslim states "to bow before the Zionists for the so-called peace agreement."

"We consider this violation an international agreement for accelerating the process of holding the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace conference," Besharati said. He also said that the conspiracy against the Muslim ummah will never succeed.

According to news reports four Israeli F-15 jet fighters violated the Iraqi airspace in the northwest of the country via Syria on October 4. Other reports said that Israeli planes had also violated the airspace over Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

"The regime occupying al-Quds has been founded at the cost of the martyrdom of countless Palestinian Muslims and this incident once more proves the right stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the Zionist regime must be eradicated," TEHRAN TIMES quoted Besharati as saying.

More Reaction to Overflights

NC0910182591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement which says: According to received reports, the Zionist entity has violated the airspace of neighbor Iraq in a hostile action and also has violated the airspace of Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt.

The statement added: The reason for this aggression is the Islamic countries' weakness and division. The Zionist aggression should be confronted through a firm stand. The statement stressed the need for those panting for peace with the Zionist entity, which was established on aggression, to learn from this hostile action.

The statement stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with its immortal principles, warns the usurping Zionist entity against the consequences and outcome of its aggressive practices against the airspace of Islamic countries. It also stresses that such hostile actions increase the vigilance of Muslims in their endeavor to achieve Islamic goals and increase their unity.

Majles Ratifies Amendments to Electoral Law

LD0910111891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Excerpt] At this morning's Majles session, which was chaired by Mr. Karrubi, a bill proposing amendments to Articles 53 and 56 of the Majles Electoral Act was proposed with single priority and ratified by the deputies.

According to the approval, the duration of election campaigns is the same for all candidates endorsed in accordance with Article 52 and clauses 1 and 2 of Article 53, starting eight days before and ending 24 hours before polling day.

According to the approval, rejection of the suitability of candidates for the Majles must be in accordance with the law and based on reliable evidence. Friday imams, officials of all executive, judicial, military, and law enforcement apparatuses and revolutionary institutions and bodies using the general budget must, under no circumstances, indulge in propaganda in favor of or against any political parties or groups or their chosen candidates. Any violation of the clause is considered an offense and violators will be punished under Article 77. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia Offers 'Good' Commodities Market

LD0810193591 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 8, IRNA—The value of Iran-Saudi trade exchanges in 1992 is likely to rise to about dlrs [dollars] 600 million from a mere dlrs 1.5 million in 1990, according to the head of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, 'Ali Naqi Khamushi, here Tuesday.

He said Saudi Arabia offers a potentially good market for Iranian commodities especially during the annual hajj pilgrimage, and added that Iran can offer such items as shoes, household appliances, dried fruits, industrial products, carpets, saffron and medicinal herbs.

On Tuesday a 23-member Saudi trade delegation headed by the head of the Saudi Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, Shaykh Isma'il Abu-Dawwud arrived in Tehran. The delegation comprises of Saudi entrepreneurs and industrialists, businessmen and traders.

Khamushi said the Saudi delegates are here to evaluate the channels and the ways and means for solidifying economic and trade relations between the two countries, as well as to survey the business and trade potentials of Iran.

Abu-Dawwud said his country is interested to broaden relations and diversify trade exchanges with the Islamic Republic. He expressed hope that Iran and Saudi Arabia would shortly be able to rely on the domestic markets of each other for commodities that they need.

Opposition Reports More Anti-Regime Protests

LA0810144291 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] The citizens' protest movement in Tehran and other towns continued to hold scattered demonstrations and marches during the past 24 hours. Shortages of fuel and essential commodities as well as the regime's suppressive measures are fanning these public protests. The demonstrations in Tehran, Qom, and Esfahan were reportedly more intense than those in other places. Several instances of armed clashes between the people and the regime's agents, resulting in the death and injury of several persons, have been reported. A number of demonstrators were also arrested.